Theft of computers from DRDO

1678. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government registered a case vide FIR no. 235 dated 9th October, 2003 with the Police Station, Civil Lines, Delhi, against the incident of theft of large number of computers from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, the present status of the case;

(c) whether investigations into the theft have also been entrusted to IB and RAW;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether DRDO has conducted any in-house investigation especially to ascertain the nature of data stored in the computers so stolen, besides fixing accountability for the incident; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. FIR No. 285 dated 9th October 2003 was registered with Police Station, Civil Lines, Delhi.

(b) The police authorities have investigated the case and have stated that the theft appears to be for re-sale of hardware; similar thefts have taken place at other places in Delhi with similar modus operandi.

(c) Yes, Sir. Both agencies have conducted their investigations independently.

(d) The lost information pertained to generic data on Human Resource Development, library, internet downloads, personal files, standard commercial software packages and some studies on dummy test data. No information or material of strategic importance or of security concern had been lost in the theft.

(e) Yes, Sir. In-house investigations have been conducted separately by Shri M. Natarajan, then Chief Controller R & D/DRDO Hqrs, by Graver Committee and by Bains Committee.

(f)The findings have revealed that no information or material of strategic improtance or of security concern had been lost in the theft.

National Defence University

1679. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Defence University and National Institute of Nano-technology as well as visa centre in Punjab in the near future;

(b) if so, by when and what shall be its activities;

(c) how far it would improve the national defence position; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a similar university in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Committee on National Defence University has recommended the establishment of an Indian National Defence University. This will include existing institutes namely National Defence College (Delhi), National Defence Academy (Pune), Institute of Defence Management (Secunderabad) and Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and new institutes namely National Institute of Strategic Studies, College of National Security Policy, Institute for Advanced Technology Studies (Bangalore). The objective of the proposed National Defence university is to undertake long-term defence and strategic studies and create synergy between the academic community and Government functionaries. The Government have not taken any decision to set up the Defence University either in Punjab or Uttar Pradesh.

There is not proposal to set up a visa cerrtretSr National Institute of Nano-technology in Punjab.

Relaxation of physical standards for recruitment in defence forces

1680. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to relax the physical standards for recruitment to various posts in the defence forces;